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SOVIET UNION MILITARY-ECONOMIC REPORT

Translated from the German Report 5/4

Dated: 8 April 1943

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PREFACE

During the Second World War the German Signal Intelligence Control Center of the Staff of the Chief of Army Signal Service (HNS, LNA) issued a series of reports to show the USSR military-economic situation as reflected in Russian internal plain language traffic. These reports appeared at short, irregular intervals, usually six per month, for the period October 1942-March 1943. Eighty-three of these reports have been translated and issued by [REDACTED]

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It is planned to issue a complete set of translations of the reports beginning with the most recent and working backward, but omitting those already translated by [REDACTED]

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The numbering of the items was added by the translator since the Germans did this only in the last eighteen reports, [REDACTED] inclusive. Since the original material was in Russian, an effort has been made when translating the German to determine the original Russian term wherever possible. This is facilitated by the Russian fondness for abbreviations. In these translations into English the probable meaning of the abbreviation will be given in parenthesis the first time it occurs in each report.

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8 April 1943

The Soviet Union

Military-Economic Report 5/4

(Based on domestic radio traffic)

Individual Messages

I Total Survey

1) Food

(1) The Industrial People's Commissariats were instructed to cultivate agricultural products on their lands which have been unplowed up to the present time.

(2) In March the Procurement Commissariat in Georgia could make available larger quantities of potatoes and vegetables. In April the production of food is to be increased further. According to plan 600 tons of macaroni are to be delivered to the Trade Commissariat alone.

(3) Working the areas of the Asiatic Rivers of the Soviet Union where fish are plentiful is apparently to be considerably increased. In addition to the organization of the People's Commissariat for Fish, the River Fleet Commissariat as well as one transport organization are to be included in the fish catch. According to plan the offices are to increase the fish catch by almost double in the second quarter.

(4) The delivery of alcohol to the Organization of Trade in the Soviet Union was forbidden. The distilleries have to carry out deliveries only for the Red Army.

2) Transport

(5) The shortage of railroad cars could not be corrected as before.

(6) Special measures were ordered for the River Fleet for the spring period.

3) Metal Industry

(7) The Metal Industry in Middle Asia delivered part of its products to the Metal Industry in the Transcaucasus for further processing.

II Individual Items

1) Food

(8) According to plan the People's Commissariat for the Timber Industry in

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Georgia is to harvest 1700 tons of hay from 1200 hectares of land in 1943.

(9) On 1 March the Georgian Trade Commissariat gave the following figures for supply and consumption for the months of January and February:

	<u>Potatoes</u>	<u>Vegetables</u>
Arrivals	480 tons	442 tons
Consumption	520 tons	495 tons
Supply	579 tons	93 tons

(10) In March alone the Commissariat for Procurement shipped 11,508 tons of potatoes and 19,781 tons of vegetables.

(11) From March to June the Commissariat for Food is to deliver 12.7 tons of bakery products to the Canning Trust and in April, 600 tons of bakery products to the Trade Commissariat.

(12) In the second quarter the River Fleet Commissariat in Krasnoyarsk is to catch 0.4 ton of fish. The plan called for a quantity of only 0.23 ton.

(13) On 28 March the Food Industry in Kutais had a supply of 222 tons of food.

(14) From 20 to 25 March the Honey Combine in Kafana shipped 338 tons of honey products.

(15) In the last period the following deliveries were carried out:

From Fish Industry Gurev to Astrakhan	450 tons of fish
From Groats Factory No. 10 in Kukhnamenkovo to Ufa	130 tons of scraps
From the Altai Sovkhoz to Novosibirsk	380 tons of oats
From Ufa to the Northwest Steamship Agency, Leningrad	50 tons of seed
	potatoes
To Kujbyshev	20 tons of seed
	potatoes
To Sretensk (275 kilometers east of Chita)	1 ton feed grain
To Saratov	30 tons of seed
	potatoes
To Plant "Teplokhod" in Gorkij	2 tons feed grain

(16) The crews of ships at sea receive the following allotted rations per man for ten days:

2,000 grams meat or fish
200 grams sugar
600 grams groats
4,000 grams potatoes
3,000 grams vegetables
100 grams tobacco
bread as confirmed

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In addition, each one will receive 200 grams of soap and 2 boxes of matches.

Luxuries.

(17) The distillery in Kamyshin refused a delivery of 3,350 liters of alcohol with the argument that the delivery of alcoholic beverages to commercial organizations is forbidden.

2) Transport

Railway Directorate

(18) Only 70 cars of sawn timber instead of 170 cars were made available by the Railway Directorate in Tiflis. For hay transport 40 cars were authorized.

(19) In Erivan carbide for 13 cars is stored. The transport of the carbide cannot be carried out because of the lack of railroad cars. For April, 57 cars for transporting carbide are required by both Erivan and Kirovakan.

(20) In Georgia the following is required in May for transport within the Transcaucasus: 50 cars for grain, 10 cars for building materials, 35 cars for timber, and 125 cars for other raw materials.

(21) In Krasnovodsk 10 cars have been accumulated which are destined for Plant "Generator" in Tiflis.

River Fleet

(22) According to a message the Directorate of the Lower Volga Steamship Agency was moved to Stalingrad/Zarepta.

(23) In the second quarter, according to plan, the Water Transport Base in Novosibirsk is to transport 1,000 cubic meters of timber and the River Fleet Commissariat--1,500 cubic meters of timber.

(24) The River Fleet Commissariat in Novosibirsk received ship screws for five ships. Likewise, ship screws are being produced for four ships lying in Omsk.

(25) In Tyumen there are two steam tugs of 300 horsepower each and one steam tug of 400 horsepower.

(26) The following was ordered in order to assure a safe harboring of the river ships at repair places during the breaking-up of ice in the spring:

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- 1) It is to be determined which ships have engines, hulls, and water-emptying plants in good condition;
- 2) Ten days before the opening of navigation the steamers are to be manned with a full crew of experienced technical workers;
- 3) Priority is to be guaranteed to selected steamers above all remaining ships with regard to the completion of repair work, the cleaning of boilers and the examining of engine plants;
- 4) Through an order to the River Fleet the ships concerned have to carry out a 24-hour watch at their berths in order to guarantee the required help to other ships in the event that the ice begins to break or the occurrence of some other natural phenomenon;
- 5) People are to be assigned to each repair place with the responsibility of conducting an uninterrupted 24-hour watch for the safety of the River Fleet at the berths during the breaking-up of the ice in the spring;
- 6) In accordance with the number of ships wintering at the berths for damage conditions, a sufficient supply of cement, nails, sawdust, tarpaulin, felt and steel hawsers are to be procured along with a steam tug;
- 7) By 5 April the Central Directorate is to make known the names of the ships on watch as well as the names of the persons responsible for the safe berthing of the ships.

Useful organization of ships' berths is to be considered as a final measure in carrying out winter repair work, the results of which are decisive for fulfilling the State Plan in connection with transport during the navigation period of 1943.

3) Metals and Metal Industry

(27) The following freight destined for Plant "Generator" in Tiflis is located in Krasnovodsk:

- 4 cars non-ferrous metals
- 3 cars spare parts
- 1 car pipes
- 1 car propellers
- 1 car nitro lacquer

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(28) In addition Plant "Generator" in Tiflis was authorized 0.1 ton of copper wire and 100 tons of brass mesh wire. The Metal Sales transferred to the Local Industry 98 tons of iron for processing in the period from 1 to 25 March. Plant 201 requires 40 tons of galvanized sheet metal. Plant Kirov requires 160 tons of pipe from the pipe factory in Pervouralsk.

(29) On 1 April the River Fleet Commissariat in Kujbyshev had a supply of 285 tons of ferrous metals and 430 tons of non-ferrous metals.

(30) The Sales for the Metal Industry delivered 111.5 tons of steel hawser and 90 kilograms of tin.

(31) The Water Transport Base in Khabarovsk received 9.1 tons of steel hawser from Vladivostok.

4) Miscellaneous

(32) Saratov cannot receive any varnish for the time being. In the middle of April 12 tons will again be made available.

(33) Plant "Kujbyshev" in Kujbyshev Rajon received an order to manufacture 2,000 axes.

(34) Plant "Volgatanker" in Erivan received 150 tons of cement from Volsk.

Expenses.

(35) In Armenia 2,410,000 rubles were spent for the building of tanks and planes, including 1,500,000 rubles in promissory notes.

(36) For the families of the soldiers at the front 55,000 rubles and 66 tons of grain were made available.